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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARYSVILLE FELON CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two count Indictment against RAUL ORTIZ VERA, 31, of Marysville, California. In Count One of the Indictment, VERA is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm on January 4, 2007. In Count Two, VERA is charged with possession of over 50 grams of a mixture of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the drug, also on January 4, 2007.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of the Marysville Police Department, the NET-5 Drug Task Force of Northern California, the Yuba County Sheriff's Office, and other local law enforcement in and around Yuba County.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, VERA was traveling by car through Marysville on Thursday, January 4, 2007, when a uniformed Marysville Police Officer driving a marked police vehicle noticed VERA's vehicle contained expired tags. VERA was later contacted by the uniformed officer and, at that time, falsely identified himself. After VERA's false identification was discovered, the uniformed officer attempted to arrest VERA. VERA resisted arrest and attempted to flee. After a foot pursuit and struggle, VERA was successfully arrested. During his struggle with arresting officers, VERA attempted to get his fully loaded pistol from his waistband. A bag of methamphetamine was found on VERA's person. VERA also attempted to discard another bag of methamphetamine during his flight. VERA has a prior California state conviction for possession of a sawed off shotgun.

VERA is expected to appear before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Sacramento on Friday, February 2, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. If convicted, he faces a minimum mandatory 5 years in prison for

the methamphetamine based charge, and a statutory maximum of up to 40 years in prison.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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